However at present ten new projects each costing Rs. 20 crores and abone with a capacity of 16.71 million tonnes per annum are under various stages of implementation in ECL.

As regards complaints, coal companies have set up a procedure for redressal of grievances. Regional Coal Consumers Councils have been set up in each subsidiary of Coal India Limited.

PDS Consumers in India

*754. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:
SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE:

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state the number of PDS consumers in India and its percentage to the total population?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH): As per present policy of the Central Government coverage under the Public Distribution System (PDS) is universal in nature and the entire population of the country is covered under the PDS.

समुद्री उत्पादों को बढ़ावा देने के लिए कार्य योजना

*755. **श्री जनेश्वर मिश्र :** क्या वाणिज्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार समुद्री उत्पादों को बढ़ावा देने के लिए किसी कार्य योजना पर विचार कर रही है ;

(ख) क्या समुद्री उत्पादों के क्षेत्र में विदेशी पूंजी निवेशकों ने भारत सरकार के सहयोग से संयुक्त उद्यम लगाने का कोई प्रस्ताव किया है ; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है ?

वाणिज्य मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री पी. चिदम्बरम्): (क) समुद्री उत्पादों के संवर्धन के लिए सरकार की एक निरन्तर चलने वाली कार्रवाई योजना है ।

(ख) जी, नहीं ।

(ग) प्रश्न नहीं उठता ।

Electronics and Computer Software in Thrust Sector to export

*756. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whethe it is a fact that Electronics and Computer Software have been identified as thrust sector for export;

(b) how many electronics and computer software units are in operation under the EOU Scheme in the country and how mony of them are located in Bangalore/Karnataka; and

(c) how many Export Processing Zones have been set up in the country and whether despite being a leading city for exports of leather garments silk, handicrafts, agarbathi/incense/perfumes and electronics and computer software, Bangalore is still to have its own Export Processing Zone and if so the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) At present, there are 66 Electronics and Computer Software units in operation under the EOU scheme in the country. Out of them 13 units are located in Karnatoka including 12 units in Bangalore.

(c) At present, there are 7 Export Processing Zones (EPZs) functioning in the country. These are at Santacruz (Maharashtra), Kandla (Gujarat), Noida (UP). Madras (T.N.), Cochin (Kerala), Falta (W. Bengal) and Visakhapatnam (A.P.)

Keeping in view the availability of funds and the need to optimise infrastructural facilities in the existing Export Processing Zones, the Govt. of India is presently not considering developing new zones in the country. The need for greater involvement of the State Govts. in export efforts of the country has been felt. Accordingly, an Export Promotion Industrial Park (EPIP) Scheme has now been drawn up which envisages grant of central assistance towards development by the State Govt. of Industrial infrastructure with export orientation. Under this scheme the Central Govt. has also approved a proposal of the Karnataka Govt. for setting up of such a park at Hoodi (Bangalore) in 1994-95.

गुजरात में नियोक्ताओं द्वारा भविष्य निधि की राशि जमा न कराया जाना

*757. **श्री गोपाल सिंह जी. सोलंकी** : क्या श्रम मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या गुजरात में सूरत, पंचमहल, भरुच और बड़ोदर जिलों के कुछ नियोक्ताओं ने अपने कर्मचारियों की भविष्य निधि की राशि क्षेत्रीय भविष्य निधि आयुक्तों के पास जमा नहीं करायी है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो गत 3 वर्षों के दौरान सरकार को इन जिलों से वर्ष-वार कितनी शिकायतें प्राप्त हुई हैं ; और

(ग) सरकार ने उक्त राशि को प्राप्त करने के लिए क्या कदम उठाये हैं ?

श्रम मंत्री (श्री पी. ए. संगमा) : (क) जी, हां ।

(ख) बड़ोदर जिले से तीन शिकायतें अर्थात् 1991-92, 1992-93 और 1993-94 प्रत्येक वर्ष में एक-एक शिकायत प्राप्त हुई है । तथापि, सूरत, पंचमहल और भरूच जिलों से कोई शिकायत प्राप्त नहीं हुई है ।

(ग) चूककर्ता प्रतिष्ठानों के विरुद्ध बकाया देय राशियों को वसूल करने के लिए आवश्यक कानूनी तथा दण्डात्मक कार्रवाई पहले ही की जा रही है ।

Complaints received by Consumer Disputes Redressal forum

758. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of complaints received by the Consumer Disputes Redressal forum (CDRF) during the last one year and how many of them have so far been disposed of by it; and

(b) steps taken by Government to reduce complaints?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) The Ministry of Civil Supplies, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution is compiling this information on Quarterly basis. As per information available with Central Government. 5,95,254 cases have been filed in the various State Commissions and district Fora in the country, out of which 3,80,913 have been disposed of. In the National Commission, 6,681 cases have been filed out of which 4,399 have been disposed of.

(b) The responsibility of clearing the pending cases by the Consumer Courts lies with State Governments who have been advised to monitor pendency in Consumer Courts regularly. Many of the State Governments are converting part time District fora into full time. Consumer Protection Act, 1986 also provides for setting up of additional District Fora depending upon the work load. However, responsibility of setting up of additional District Fora lies solely with the State Governments. The Central Government has also approved the proposal of grant of one time financial assistance of Rupees sixty one crores to strengthen the infrastructure of Consumer Courts to ensure smooth functioning.